

White Mountain Zone



White Mountain Zone (WMZ)
PO Box 640
Springerville, AZ 85938

Phone: (928) 535-3755
(928) 535-3826

Potato Fire

Information Office: **NEW PHONE NUMBERS** 928-535-3755 or 928-535-3826

Date: June 14, 2006 9:30 pm

** Effective Thursday at 8:00 am the phone contact numbers will change to the above-listed numbers;
Information office hours: 8:00 am – 10:00 pm

LOCATION: The Potato Fire is 10 miles Northwest of Heber-Overgaard

STARTED: June 6, 2006, at 1330 hrs.

SIZE: About 6,200 Acres **CONTAINMENT:** 60%

FUELS: Burning in ponderosa pine, grass understory and pinyon juniper; drought killed pinyon pine is helping to feed this fire.

OBJECTIVES: Firefighter safety, protection of private property and protection of the power lines are primary objectives. Protection of cultural resources and cost containment are also objectives

CONCERNS: The Chevelon Retreat and Chevelon Acres subdivisions are threatened and are about 1/2 mile from the fire front. The primary access to the subdivision is closed. Some subdivision residents have evacuated. Four large power lines are within this fire area and have been de-energized several times. The power lines supply power to the Phoenix and Tucson area. There is also concern for wildlife and cultural resources. Forecasted high winds again on Thursday will test the containment line on the north and possibly the west flank of the fire.

RESOURCES: There are about 487 personnel assigned to this fire under the management of the Eastern Arizona Incident Management Team.

SUMMARY: The fire increased in size slightly on the west and north flanks today but the containment line protecting the private lands held throughout today's burning period despite high winds. The few spot fires were quickly contained. A structure protection group is in place at the private land boundary. The east flank of the fire stayed relatively calm. Smoke was heavy over much of the fire at mid-afternoon. Tonight crews and dozers will work to improve the line on the west side in preparation for a possible burn out. All of the power lines have been energized as of 9:00 pm tonight.

The receiving area for the evacuees is the Capps Elementary School located 2 blocks South of Hwy. 260 on Buckskin Road in Heber. Livestock belonging to the evacuees have been transported to the Navajo County Fair grounds. There is no estimate when evacuees will be allowed to return to their homes. The Navajo County Emergency Operations Center has evacuation and emergency assistance information at (928) 524-4200.

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